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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/966,238	09/28/2001	Hiroshi Shirai	51451 US	5848

7590 06/25/2002

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EXAMINER

VU, HIEN D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2833

DATE MAILED: 06/25/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/966,238

Applicant(s)

Shimmi et al

Examiner

Han Uu

Group Art Unit

2833

— The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____
- ☐ This action is **FINAL**.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- ☐ Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement

Application Papers

- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- ☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d).

☒ All ☒ Some* ☐ None of the:

- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____
- ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a))

*Certified copies not received: _____

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 3
- ☒ Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- ☐ Other _____

Office Action Summary

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1. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1, lines 10-11 and 13, it is unclear what the feature "electrical continuity" is referring to; lines 17-20, it is unclear what the structural relationship between the first contact parts and the first shielding shell is and how the first contact parts could dispose in the direction perpendicular to the mating direction of the first and second connectors; lines 21-28, the features "when the first...connectors" are confusing and unclear as to what the structural relationship between the first contact parts of the first connector and the second contact parts of the second connector is.

Claim 5, lines 2-3, "the second engaging part of the female connector" lacks an antecedent basis.

Claim 6, lines 7-8, "whose front end" lacks an antecedent basis; line 9, "whose rear end" lacks an antecedent basis; line 11, "the front end part" lacks an antecedent basis; line 7, it is unclear what the structural relationship between the locking part and the metal latching arm is.

Claim 8, line 3, "the forward facing surface" lacks an antecedent basis.

Claim 9, line 2, "the rearward-facing surface" lacks an antecedent basis.

Claim 10, line 3, "the end portion of the shielding shell" lacks an antecedent basis; line 5, it is unclear what "it" is referring to.

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2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

2. A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

3. (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lin.

5. Insofar as the claims can be understood due to the indefiniteness above, Lin is applied as follows: Figs 2-5 show a complete response to each and every element set forth in the claims. For example: a first connector 10, a metal latch arm (11,12) with first engagement part 11A, a second connector 20 with a second engagement part 21, inward spring arms of the second connector 20 are read as the recited contact parts, the spring arms engaged with holes of the shell of the first connector 10 which are read as the recited first contact parts.

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 4-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lin view of Hirai.

8. As to claims 4-5 & 8 Lin does not show the first engagement part of the latch arm being a hole and the second engagement part of the second connector being an anchoring projection.

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Hirai, Figs. 5B shows a latch arm 10 of a first connector having a projection 12 and a second connector having a hole. It would have been obvious to one with skill in the art to modify the connector of Lin by replacing the first engagement part of the latch arm with a hole and the second engagement part with a projection, as taught by Hirai, in order to achieve better latch, and further the changes in Hirai teaching are the result of reversal parts.

As to claim 6, Lin does not show the rear end of the latching arm being able to slide on a surface of the shell, Hirai, Fig. 5A shows a latching arm 10 being able to slide on a surface of a shell 8. It would have been obvious to one with skill in the art to modify the connector of Lin by forming the rear end of the latching arm to be able to slide, as taught by Hirai, in order to enable easier operation.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Hien Vu at telephone number (707)308-2009.

H VU/pj

06/10/02


Hien Vu
Primary Examiner